

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6464

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 3668

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR

SUB: CHANGES IN FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM

REF: STATE 051768 (DTG 031737Z MAR 76 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN MOST CASES, IRANIAN ARMED SERVICES WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE TO CONTINUATION OF ESSENTIAL U.S. TRAINING DESPITE ESCALATION OF COSTS. THERE MAY BE SOME DROP-OUTS AND SHIFTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES OWING TO BUDGET STRINGENCIES, BUT PURCHASES OF U.S. EQUIPMENT REQUIRE TECHNICAL TRAINING IN U.S. MILITARY SCHOOLS. WHEN WORD OF SHARPLY INCREASED COSTS REACHES GOI POLICY LEVEL, WE CAN EXPECT GREAT UNHAPPINESS. IRANIANS HAVE ALREADY FORCEFULLY EXPRESSED THEMSELVES ON ISSUE OF INFLATION IN DEFENSE COSTS. IF WE ARE NOT ABLE BETTER TO MANAGE OUR PRICING, ESPECIALLY FOR MILITARY TRAINING WHICH CLEARLY SERVES U.S. INTERESTS, WE MAY FIND THAT GOI WILL GIVE HEED TO LESSON TAUGHT BY SPAIN, TURKEY, AND GREECE AND BEGIN TO ASK US FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR U.S.-PURPOSE FACILITIES WHICH WE NOW RECEIVE FREE OF CHARGE. END SUMMARY

1. WE ARE AT A DISADVANTAGE IN REPLYING TO REFTTEL QUERIES BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TAKE ADEQUATE SOUNDINGS WITH IRANIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

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HOWEVER, MAAG ARMY SECTION NOTES THAT SOME TRAINING

COSTS HAVE INCREASED BY 400 PERCENT AND 1900 PERCENT. THEREFORE, IN OUR COMMENTS ON REACTIONS OF THREE IRANIAN SERVICES THERE IS SHARPER DELINEATION OF PROBABLE POSITION OF IIGF THAN OF IIN AND IIAF.

2. ANSWERS TO QUERIES IN PARA 5 FOLLOW:

(A) ARMY SECTION BELIEVES THAT DRASTIC INCREASES IN FMTP COSTS WILL FORCE IIGF, BECAUSE OF RESTRICTED TRAINING BUDGET, TO DELETE NUMBER OF PROGRAMMED POSITIONS FROM CURRENT TRAINING PLAN. NAVY FEELS THAT IIN ANTICIPATES SOME INCREASE IN COSTS AND WILL HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO PAY THEM. IIN HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO ACQUISITION OF ADVANCED SYSTEMS (HELICOPTERS, SUBMARINES, SPRUANCE SHIPS) AND U.S. TRAINING IS ESSENTIAL ITEM. AIR FORCE REPORTS THAT IIAF OFFICERS HAVE ACCEPTED EXPLANATIONS OF INCREASED TRAINING COSTS TO DATE. NO SHARP REACTION BY IIAF IS EXPECTED.

(B) ALL IRANIAN MILITARY TRAINING IS FUNDED BY GOI. TRAINING OF INTEREST TO IRANIAN SERVICES FOLLOWS:

IIGF - OFFICER CAREER DEVELOPMENT COURSES (ADVANCED INFANTRY, ARMOR, ARTILLERY, COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE), HELICOPTER TRANSITION PILOT TRAINING, HELICOPTER INSTRUCTOR PILOT TRAINING AND TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE COURSES.

IIN - BASIC AND ADVANCED COURSES RELATED TO AVIATION, SUBMARINES AND SPRUANCE CLASS DESTROYERS.

IIAF - AIRCREW TRAINING, PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION, AVIONICS AND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE TRAINING, COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS AND DATA PROCESSING TRAINING, AVIONICS AND COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS INSTRUCTOR TRAINING.

IIN AND IIAF ARE EXPECTED TO MAINTAIN BROAD OUTLINE OF TRAINING PROGRAM AS SCHEDULED DESPITE INCREASED COSTS. IIAF MAY, HOWEVER, CHANGE UNDERGRADUATE PILOT TRAINING TO THIRD COUNTRY SUPPORT OR ACCELERATE PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM. IIGF WILL PROBABLY REDUCE NUMBER OF TRAINEES FOR U.S. SCHOOLS AND SHIFT TO IRANIAN SCHOOLS
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OR BRITISH, GERMAN, PAKISTANI OR FRENCH TRAINING.

(C) FOLLOWING COURSES ARE OF PRIME INTEREST TO USG:

IIGF - PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION, PARTICULARLY BRANCH ADVANCED TRAINING AND COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE.

IIN - TRAINING ASSOCIATED WITH EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY
IN THE INVENTORY.

IIAF - TRAINING COURSES THAT PLACE OFFICERS IN THE US/USAF
ENVIRONMENT FOR EXTENDED PERIODS. FLYING TRAINING AND
PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION ARE EXAMPLES.

AMERICAN SCHOOLS ARE ACCORDED FIRST PLACE AMONG
FOREIGN TRAINING AVAILABLE TO IRANIAN OFFICERS. ATTENDANCE
AT U.S. MILITARY SCHOOLS IS GENERALLY A PREREQUISITE FOR
ADVANCEMENT TO SENIOR RANK IN ALL THREE SERVICES. IT
IS VERY SPECIFIC U.S. INTEREST TO ASSURE THAT A
SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF IRANIAN OFFICERS RECEIVE THEIR
TECHNICAL AND GENERAL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN THE U.S.
NO OTHER COHESIVE IRANIAN GROUP IS LIKELY TO HAVE GREATER
IMPACT ON FUTURE COURSE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THIS
COUNTRY THAN MILITARY.

(D) IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHICH COURSES MAY
BE DROPPED BY MILITARY SERVICES AS REACTION TO SUBSTANTIAL
COST INCREASES. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT STAFF COLLEGE TRAINEES
WILL BE REDUCED IN NUMBER AS WELL AS INSTRUCTION RELATED
TO SYSTEMS THAT ARE AVAILABLE IN THIRD COUNTRIES. FOR
EXAMPLE, CH-47 HELICOPTER TRAINING, UP 1571 PERCENT, MIGHT BE
OBTAINED FROM ITALIAN FIRM. ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING
MIGHT BE PROVIDED BY GREAT BRITAIN.

(E) THE U.S. WILL REMAIN ONLY SOURCE OF TRAINING WITH
EQUIPMENT PECULIAR TO OUR ARMED FORCES. BRITAIN,
GERMANY, FRANCE, ITALY, PAKISTAN AND TURKEY MAY ALSO BE
USED FOR TRAINING, BUT THIS WOULD NOT, IN IRANIAN EYES,
CONSTITUTE SATISFACTORY SUBSTITUTION. TO EXTENT THAT
THIRD COUNTRY TRAINING IS UTILIZED, AMERICAN INFLUENCE
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WOULD DECLINE AND IRANIAN MILITARY CAPABILITY WOULD,
TO SOME EXTENT, BE IMPAIRED.

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6465

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEHRAN 3668

3. AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, GOI HAS FOR SOME MONTHS BORNE A SPECIAL GRIEVANCE AGAINST US FOR ESCALATING COSTS OF DEFENSE HARDWARE AND SERVICES. INSTANCES OF CANCELLED OR REDUCED ORDERS HAVE BEEN FAIRLY INFREQUENT COMPARED TO SHARPNESS OF COMPLAINTS. WE BELIEVE THIS IS SO BECAUSE GOI BELIEVES IT MUST ACQUIRE WEAPONS SYSTEMS THAT IT HAS PLANNED FOR. SAME REACTION, WE THINK, WILL BE TRUE AS TRAINING COSTS ARE PUSHED UP. THAT IS, GOI WILL CONTINUE TO SEND NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL TO THE U.S. FOR TECHNICAL COURSES, BUT IRANIAN LEADERS WILL BE DECIDEDLY UNHAPPY.

4. THERE SHOULD BE NO MISTAKE IN WASHINGTON THAT WE ARE ERODING OUR POSITION AS PRIMARY MILITARY ADVISOR AND SUPPLIER TO IRAN THROUGH OUR INABILITY TO CONTROL COSTS. REACTION MAY NOT BE EXPRESSED AT THE WORKING LEVEL WHEN TRAINING IS ARRANGED, BUT IT WILL BE FELT AT HIGHEST LEVEL WHERE BUDGET LIMINATIONS ARE KNOWN AND POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES ARE WEIGHED. WHEN GOI LEARNS THAT COSTS ARE BEING PUSHED UP BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL DETERMINATION THAT TRAINEE COUNTRIES MUST BEAR "FULL" BURDEN OF THAT ACTIVITY, IT WOULD BE SAFE TO ASSUME THAT IRAN MAY BEGIN TO THINK OF REPAYING US WITH OUR OWN MEDICINE. THE SUCCESS OF SPAIN, TURKEY AND GREECE IN EXTRACTING MONEY IN RETURN FOR BASES WILL NOT BE MISSED WITH THE IRANIANS. THEY MAY ALSO BE AWARE THAT EVEN SINGAPORE IS INCREASING

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ITS CHARGES TO US AS RECIPROCAL ACTION FOR OUR HIGHER MILITARY COSTS TO THAT GOVERNMENT. AT SOME POINT WE MAY WELL BE ASKED TO PAY SUBSTANTIAL COMPENSATION FOR FACILITIES WE ENJOY IN IRAN WHICH SERVE STRICTLY U.S. INTERESTS. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO PUBLICIZE THIS POSSIBILITY NOR, WE EMPHASIZE, HAS ANY IRANIAN YET SPOKEN TO US IN THESE TERMS. BUT WE THINK WASHINGTON AGENCIES SHOULD

PREPARE FOR THAT EVENUTALITY. WE HOPE THIS THOUGHT WILL
ENCURAGE MORE AGENCIES TO WORK FOR A MORE REASONABLE USG
POSITION ON TRAINING EXPENSES, I.E., A POSITION THAT TAKES
COGNIZANCE OF THE FACT THAT TRAINING IRANIANS ALSO
SERVES IMPORTANT USG INTERESTS.
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